

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

established 1904.

BULLETIN

<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/tasfield.html>Editor : Don Hird. (email <mailto:donald.hird@education.tas.gov.au>)

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. We issue our journal *The Tasmanian Naturalist* annually in October. People with a range of ages, background and knowledge are welcome as members.

Contact Genevieve Gates (6227 8638) for further information or write to GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

Programme

General Meetings start at 7.45 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance in Macquarie Street. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear.

If you are planning to attend an outing but have not been to the prior meeting, phone to check as to the timing of the excursion (with Genevieve Gates; 62 278 638 or Don Hird; 62 289 702). Unforeseen changes sometimes occur.

Thurs. 1 Aug.	7.45p.m.: Keith Martin-Smith from University of Tasmania will speak about the Seahorses & Pipefish.
Sun. 18 Aug.	Meet at The Museum at 9.00 a.m. (Please note departure from usual date). We will travel to the Warra Forestry Reference Area in the southern forests. This excursion has been rescheduled to coincide with National Science Week and may include visitors in that context. The primary focus will be on <i>Inhabitants of Decaying Logs</i> and the importance of this microhabitat in the forest ecosystem. An alternative rendezvous is at the Talune Reserve carpark; park there and meet at the boomgate at 11.00 a.m.
Thurs. 5 Sept.	Clodagh Jones will speak on the Natural History of Russia, based on recent travel there.
Sept. Excursion	The weekend Federation of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Clubs biannual meeting, this time organised by us for 20 -22 September. Details appear on page 5; the spring equinox will make for a great excursion.
Thurs. 3 Oct.	7.45p.m.: Karyl Michaels will speak on Frogs.
Sat. 5 Oct. Excurs.	10.00 a.m.: Moultine Lagoon; the Lauderdale, not east coast one, will be our venue.
Thurs. 7 Nov.	7.45p.m.: Greg Jordan will speak on the Paleobotany of Southern Continents.

Do you have an email address?

Because it would be much easier to advise members of change of meeting times or excursions, or remind members about events by email, please email Anna at robmce@netspace.net.au of your address.

Australian Naturalists Network

ANN is the national liaison body between FieldNats. In November their annual get together is to be held in northern Tasmania. See the last page for details.

Federation Meeting September 2002

Full details of this weekend excursion / meeting appear on page 5; please come along.

Excursion Reports

Outing of 9 June 2002 to Bluff River Gorge

This Sunday outing attracted seven members who took a gamble on the weather, which, much to our comfort and delight, turned out to be fine, definitely the place to be in the South on that day (Hobart had rain). The destination was unfamiliar to most of us, but Don had been there before and had explicit telephone instructions from Tom Terry, who wisely stayed home! The location was in State Forest about 11 km north-northwest of Buckland; the walk went through dry sclerophyll forest for about two km before descending into the gorge of a tributary of the Bluff River. Although there are taped tracks there, the start of the descent is not clear. We eventually found the taped route and followed until about 1.30pm, when our stomachs and legs said time for lunch. Tom had mentioned that there was a loop track in the gorge, but he did not tell us the diameter of the loop. After following it past several overhanging sandstone outcrops, reminiscent of Chauncy Vale, the President, the night out at McGregor's Peak a year before still in her consciousness, and no end of the 'loop' in sight, started viewing the caves as potential overnight campsites! As none of us really knew where the loop finished, we turned back, much to the relief of the President (and her partner, who also remembered McGregor's Peak) and followed another taped route to the top of the gorge, after a sortie on another branch which started going back down to the gorge.

The dry sclerophyll forest had quite a few fungal species in it, but was too early for orchids. However, it appears to be a good venue for a further trip, since the drive to the start is all on sealed road and only takes about an hour from the Museum. The vegetation type changed as we descended into the gorge, with *Pomaderris apetala* and *Cyathodes glauca* (cheeseberry) making an appearance, but no rain forest species. We did see gorse in the paddocks close to Buckland, but none of us bothered to get out of the car to check whether the gorse mite had the situation under control. No gorse was obvious in the State Forest, which appeared to be relatively weed-free.

Fungi list:

<i>Agaricus</i> sp.	<i>Descolea recedens</i>	<i>Lepiota</i> sp.
<i>Aleuria aurantiaca</i>	<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	<i>Mycena</i> 'albidofusca'
Ascomycete (white, bruising orange)	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i>	<i>Mycena</i> 'bleach sulcate on wood'
<i>Clavicorona colensii</i>	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (three distinct species)	<i>Mycena</i> 'sticky date'
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	<i>Galerina</i> sp. (two distinct species)	<i>Mycena epipterygia</i>
<i>Collybia eucalyptorum</i>	<i>Gymnopilus</i> sp.	* <i>Mycena interrupta</i>
<i>Coltricia oblectans</i>	<i>Heterotextus miltinus</i>	<i>Mycena</i> sp. (brown, on wood, white gills)
<i>Cortinarius</i> 'acuti group'	* <i>Hygrocybe graminicolor</i>	<i>Mycena</i> sp. (subcapillaris group)
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (brown, with pink universal veil remnants on stipe)	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	* <i>Omphalina chromacea</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (golden brown)	<i>Inocybe</i> 'brunetta'	* <i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (large, lilac Phlegmacium)	<i>Inocybe cystidiocatenata</i>	<i>Psathyrella</i> sp., with appendiculate margin
<i>Crepidotus appланatus</i>	<i>Inocybe</i> sp. (small, brown)	<i>Ripartites</i> sp.
<i>Dermocybe</i> sp. (dark brown)	<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	<i>Russula persanguinea</i>

<i>Dermocybe</i> sp. (grayish green)	<i>Lactarius eucalypti</i>	<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>
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Outing of 4 May 2002 to Clark's Cliffs

A mild late autumn day saw 10 of us including Bruno, a visiting mycologist from Italy, assemble near Koonya on Tasman Peninsula. Tracks in this area have been constructed and maintained by a team of locals including Peter Storey of *Tasman Tracks*. We undertook the longer loop of around 10km.

The track traverses wet forest including, in one valley, a mixed assemblage of riparian trees including very tall *Melaleuca ericifolia*. Ringtail possum dreys were seen. Even though rain had been sparse creeks were flowing through sandstone boulders, and fungi were abundant.

Lunch was had at the cliffs themselves. These comprise dolerite pillars and walls overlooking a mossy screefield, with more distant views across Nubeena and the western peninsula. Leaving the cliffs we descended through a fine rainforest with gnarled old myrtle and massive stumps from selective logging using crosscut saws.

Several of us remarked on the conservation value of these remnants; even though they may not be old-growth forest by some definitions they are locally unique and largely unexplored for invertebrates. The view from the cliffs had illustrated the majority areas already alienated to intensive agriculture or forestry.

Fungi list:

<i>Agaricus</i> 'cyanide'	<i>*Anthracophyllum archeri</i>	<i>Armillaria novae-zelandiae</i>
<i>*Calostoma fuscum</i>	<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	<i>Clavicorona aff. piperata</i>
<i>Clavulina</i> 'stiffy'	<i>Clavulinopsis amoena</i>	<i>Clavulinopsis miniata</i>
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	<i>Collybia eucalyptorum</i>	<i>Coltricia oblectans</i>
<i>Conocybe</i> sp.	<i>*Cordyceps gunnii</i>	<i>Cortinarius abnormis</i>
<i>*Cortinarius austroalbidus</i>	<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (blue Myxarium)	<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (orange)
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. (white, sticky)	<i>Crepidotus applanatus</i>	<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>
<i>Dermocybe</i> sp. (two distinct species)	<i>Descolea reedens</i>	<i>Discinella terrestris</i>
<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (beige, with blue-grey stipe)	<i>Entoloma</i> 'gold stalk'	<i>Entoloma</i> 'orange splotch'
<i>Entoloma aromaticatum</i>	<i>Entoloma rodwayi</i>	<i>Entoloma sericellum</i>
<i>Entoloma</i> sp.	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (blue-grey-pink)	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (brown cap, red-violet stipe)
<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (brown with blue-grey stipe)	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. (grey)	<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>
<i>Galerina</i> 'yellow foot'	<i>Galerina patagonica</i>	<i>Gymnopilus</i> sp.
<i>Hohenbuehelia</i> sp.	<i>Hygrocybe astatogala</i>	<i>Hygrocybe aurantiopallens</i>
<i>*Hygrocybe graminicolor</i>	<i>Hygrocybe irrigata</i>	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>
<i>Hypocreë sulphurea</i>	<i>Inocybe</i> 'Blondie'	<i>Inocybe</i> 'brunetta'
<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	<i>Lacrymaria asperospora</i>	<i>Lactarius</i> aff. <i>piperata</i>
<i>Lactarius clarkeae</i>	<i>Lactarius eucalypti</i>	<i>*Leotia lubrica</i>
<i>Lepiota</i> 'sooty'	<i>Lepiota</i> sp. (pinkish scales)	<i>Leucocoprinus</i> sp.
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	<i>Lyophyllum</i> sp.	<i>Macrolepiota</i> sp.
<i>Marasmiellus affixus</i>	<i>Marasmius</i> 'angina'	<i>Marasmius</i> 'equicrinis' (pinwheel)
<i>Melanophyllum echinatum</i>	<i>Melanotus hepatochrous</i>	<i>Mycena</i> sp., white, fragile, on wood
<i>Mycena</i> 'albidofusca' (blistered disc)	<i>Mycena</i> 'bleach sulcate on wood'	<i>Mycena</i> 'geosmus' (sticky, yellow, earth-smelling & tasting)

disc)		earth-smelling & tasting)
<i>Mycena</i> 'highlighter yellow'	<i>Mycena</i> 'liver gills'	<i>Mycena</i> 'sticky date'
<i>Mycena austrofilipes</i>	* <i>Mycena austrororida</i>	<i>Mycena cystidiosa</i>
<i>Mycena epipyterygia</i>	* <i>Mycena interrupta</i>	<i>Mycena kurramulla</i>
* <i>Mycena nargan</i>	<i>Mycena pura</i>	<i>Mycena sanguinolenta</i>
<i>Mycena</i> sp. (brown, on wood)	<i>Mycena</i> sp. (dry, white, decurrent gills, on wood)	<i>Mycena toyeyerlaricola</i>
* <i>Mycena viscidocruenta</i>	* <i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>	<i>Panellus stipticus</i>
<i>Paxillus muelleri</i>	<i>Phelodon niger</i>	<i>Pholiota squarrosipes</i>
* <i>Plectania campylospora</i>	<i>Pluteus atromarginatus</i>	<i>Podoserpula pusio</i>
<i>Psathyrella</i> sp.	<i>Pseudobaespora</i> sp. (pink)	* <i>Pseudohydnum gelatinosum</i>
<i>Psilocybe brunneoalbescens</i>	<i>Ramaria holorubella</i>	<i>Ramaria lorithamnus</i>
<i>Russula</i> 'brown bruiser'	<i>Russula</i> 'red-yellow'	<i>Russula</i> af. lenkunya
<i>Russula albonigra</i>	<i>Russula marangania</i>	<i>Russula neerimea</i>
<i>Russula persanguinea</i>	<i>Ryvardenia campyla</i>	* <i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
<i>Tricholoma</i> 'large pink'	<i>Tricholoma</i> sp. (grey, sulphur odour)	<i>Tyromyces caesius</i> (hard form)
<i>Tyromyces merulinus</i>	<i>Tyromyces pelliculosus</i>	* <i>Vibrissa dura</i>
<i>Zelleromyces</i> sp.		

Further Thoughts on Foxes

As predicted in the last Bulletin, this issue has developed to be parochial and at times somewhat hysterical in the public forum. The local tabloid seems to regard it as a Sunday sensation issue, aided by politicians and fox-sighters / hoaxers seeking attention. The usual red herrings of trying to exterminate feral cats are given an airing, not as exercises in futility (at least by shooting) but as practical benefits or alternatives.

The reality of introduction must still be deeply in question. The supposedly incontrovertible evidence is said to be a fox carcase found near Longford with a Tasmanian-endemic Long-tailed Mouse in its stomach. This raises the underlying issue of how well we know our indigenous mammal biology including details of distribution and habitat usage. The conventional wisdom for the Long-tailed Mouse is that it is a wet forest species unlikely to be found in that area, although unfortunately we don't know enough because as usual the basic research hasn't been done.

Given the large range of potential prey species, this concurrence of events and the doubt as to the Longford locality for the Long-tailed Mouse, make the finding highly suspicious. Presumably the Longford distribution of the Long-tailed Mouse can now have been either verified or debunked, although this level of analysis hasn't been offered.

The surge in "sightings" of foxes in Tasmania must either alarm or bemuse. That so many have been reported from such a spread of distributions in such a short spate of time speak loudly for the lurid public imagination on this issue; even under the worst case introduction scenario the population indicated by the "sightings" is impossible in the context of population biology. Such credibility gaps are unfortunate.

Another concern in this whole area is the ongoing community management of conservation issues. Within Field Naturalists' circles there has been a longstanding partnership, especially interstate, between them and relevant government agencies. More recently this dynamic has shifted with more clamorous conservation advocates often seeking dominant or exclusive coverage of many issues. The government response to rising prominence of conservation seems often to raise its public profile, e.g. through NHT programs, but often on what many serious conservationists would see as tokenistic and short-term programs. There is no doubt that dialogue is usually lacking between the parties.

It's certainly a pity that such fuss and expense has to be dedicated to what should, of course, be an unnecessary task. Despite some of the reasons for concern about potential fox introduction being that Tasmania is the last stronghold for threatened species such as the eastern bettong and the barred bandicoot, the substantive underlying concerns about their conservation (inadequate reserved habitat and poorly understood detailed habitat requirements) remain neglected.

Don Hird.

The September Federation Weekend

will be hosted by The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, at

Tyenna Valley Lodge, Junee Rd MAYDENA

When: Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd September

Cost: \$20 per night, using own sleeping bag, or

\$30 per night if you use their bed linen, or

\$5 per night camping, but with full use of facilities

Accommodation: The Lodge is run by Tim Morris (the new Greens member for Lyons) and Wendy Armstrong, info@tvlodge.com. Junee Road is a turning to the right in the centre of Maydena. The Lodge is a couple of blocks down, on the right. Accommodation is in several cabins, each with its own bathroom, kitchen and sitting room. There are mostly two single beds per room.

Bookings: If you're planning on coming, or if you have any questions, please let Genevieve Gates know (ph. 6227 8638 or gates@postoffice.utas.edu.au) by Friday 13 September.

There will be a catered meal on Saturday night, which will cost about \$20. Vegetarian or other specific dietary requirements can be catered for, but please advise early.

Guest speaker on Saturday night will be David Leaman, geophysicist, who is the author of: *Walk into History in Southern Tasmania*, *Step into History in Tasmanian Reserves*, and the recently released *The Rock Which Makes Tasmania*.

He will be speaking on "Charles Darwin's Unpublished Ideas". Charles Darwin was on the *Beagle* as a geologist. During his travels he made several observations and formed opinions, which, if he had made public, would have ruined his reputation. In time these were proven to be true; thus Darwin was, in fact, ahead of his time. David will talk about three of these ideas (taken from his notebooks), one of which in present times, would have saved the government a lot of money!

David will also be leading a walk to Growling Swallet on Saturday. As parking is limited to 3-4 cars at the end of the F8 road, and as the overhanging vegetation may scratch your vehicle, the fitter participants will walk the 2 km in from Florentine Road, and then continue the 2 km walk to the Swallet. On the way back, we plan to look at Junee Cave, which is where the river re-emerges after its underground journey.

On Sunday a walk to Tim Shea is planned. For those who would prefer a shorter walk, there is plenty to choose from in the area, including those in Mt Field National Park, Wedge Forest Reserve, Creepy Crawly (on the Scotts Peak Dam Road), Timbs Track and Marriots Falls.



Australian Naturalist Network Get-together 2002

The Australian Naturalist Network was set up to build links between field naturalists clubs. They are having their first get-together this year, hosted by the Launceston Field Naturalists Club. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other field naturalists from all over Australia.

It will be held from Wednesday 6 November to Friday 22 November, and will have three elements - Pre-tour, Core Programme and Post-tour. The pre and post tours are booked out already, but tag-alongs providing own transport, accommodation and food are welcome.

During the Core you'll need to provide your own accommodation and meals. Activities will be centred around the Treasure Island Caravan and Cabin Park in Glen Dhu St, Launceston.

Bus cost for the full day tours programme is \$120 inclusive of park and other entrance fees and the Narawntapu BBQ, there is a \$15 registration fee and a \$20 evening meal on the Sunday. If you're interested in going, bookings are requested by Tuesday 6 August together with a deposit of \$20 plus the Registration fee (\$35 in total).

Registration forms will be available at the next meeting. For more information, please contact John and Marion Simmons, at jayemes@bigpond.com, or phone 03 6330 1370.

The Pre-tour will be to the northeast/east coast as follows:

Wed 6	via Scottsdale, visit the Forest Interpretation Centre, North-East Park, Weldborough Pass walk in ancient Myrtle Forest, visit Blue Tier and St Columba Falls, overnight at St Helens.
Thu 7	via Scamander, Falmouth, visit Apsley Gorge, Bird and Animal Park, overnight at Bicheno.
Fri 8	Visit Gulch and Blowhole, stop at Apsley Bridge Native Pine Reserve, Friendly Beaches, overnight to Freycinet National Park, Coles Bay.
Sat 9	Walk to Wineglass Bay Lookout or heathland. Return to Launceston via Lake Leake Rd and Meetus Falls.

Core Programme:

Sat 9	Get Together will be at local hall at 7pm for Registration, Welcome and the Programme.
Sun 10	Duck Reach walk and lunch in Cataract Gorge, afternoon visit Notley Fern Gorge.
Mon 11	Day Field Trip to George Town/Low Head mud flats for wading birds, visit coastal heathland.
Tue 12	Full Day Field trip to Narawntapu National Park, walks to beach or Archers Knob, lagoon bird watching, close-up view native animals grazing in open, BBQ, view Tasmanian Devils feeding at night.
Wed 13	Excursion to Skemps, walks lunch - easy day
Thu 14	Excursion to Seahorse World, Salmon farm, Tamar Wetlands Centre, walk to Tamar Island.
Fri 15	Full day field trip to Cradle Mountain, see Sheffield Murals en route.
Sat 16	Excursion to Liffey Falls, Habitat Plant Nursery, Cheese factory, Raspberry Farm.
Sun 17	Day Field trip to Evercreech White Gun Reserve and Mathinna Falls.
Mon 18	Final meeting of group to hand over to 2004 host group in the evening. Visit Heritage Forest for final picnic.

Post-tour North-West Coast:

Tue 19	Launceston to Arthur River via Corinna and 'Western Explorer'
Wed 20	Arthur River Cruise and then to Stanley, visit The Nut, overnight.
Thu 21	To Roger and Julius Rivers and Milkshake Hills Reserve, return to Stanley.
Fri 22	Stanley to Launceston via Dip Falls, Big Tree, Gunns Plains Caves.